



# FIRST THINGS – PART 1

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## Six Points About Firstfruits

### 1. The Overarching Principle: Strictly the PROPERTY OF GOD

*“Dedicate to me every firstborn among the Israelites. The first offspring to be born, of both humans and animals, belongs to me.” - Exodus 13:2 NLT*

### 2. The Two Exclusive Options: REDEEMED OR SACRIFICED

*You shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. <sup>13</sup> Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. - Exodus 13:12-13 ESV*

*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! - John 1:29 NKJV*

### 3. The Key Ingredient: FAITH

*But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners. - Romans 5:8 NCV*

*...that he might be the firstborn among many brothers... - Romans 8:29 NIV*

*Exodus 12:7*

### 4. The Wonderful Result: WHAT IS GIVEN IS BLESSED

*For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. - Matthew 16:25 NIV*

*If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. - Romans 11:16 NIV*

- Achan (see Judges 6-7)

*Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. - Malachi 3:8-9 ESV*

## - Cain

*In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. <sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. - Genesis 4:3-5 NIV*

*A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. - Leviticus 27:30 NIV*

## 5. The Basic Method: FIRST OF THE FIRST

*The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God... - Exodus 23:19 NKJV*

## 6. The Proper Place: GOD'S HOUSE

*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. - Proverbs 3:9-10 NIV*

*Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. <sup>2</sup> On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 NIV*

# Passing Down the Principle

*"In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>15</sup> When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.' - Exodus 13:14-15 NIV*

# My Next Step This Week...

- Memorize *Proverbs 3:9-10*.
- Set aside, unto the Lord, a firstfruits tithe with my finances.
- Work on getting out of debt so I can be generous on all occasions.
- Give my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

## Walk the Talk

### *A Small Group Discussion Guide*

1. What is something/someone you forgot but then were suddenly made aware of?
2. Read Proverbs 3:1-20 aloud to the group:
  - a. Note the three times “son” is used in this chapter. How would you divide this chapter by this word? What headings would you give the sections?
  - b. How do verses 5-7 point to the practical outcome of verses 8-10?
  - c. What does it mean, today, to honor the Lord with the “firstfruits of all your crop”?
3. Review the six points in the outline above, and share with the group the one that spoke to you the loudest? Explain.
4. What else, besides money, can you apply “first things first” to, when placing things in proper order in your life?
5. How can we pass the blessing of this down to our children most effectively?
6. Have a time of prayer for each other to embrace the firstfruits principle in your group.